

## Going Batty in Butte!

*Sarah LaMarr and Marilyn Krause, Butte Field Office*

For the past two years, the Butte Field Office has been surveying hundreds of abandoned mines to determine if and how they are being used by bats. If an abandoned mine is not being used by bats and is considered to be hazardous, the mine will be closed.

However, if bats are found, the mine shaft or adit maybe be gated to allow bats to continue to use the man-made cave. The Butte Field Office is also interested in the types of bats found in the area and the type of habitat they prefer. In July and August biologists will be heading to the field to survey for bats using the Anabat Bat Detector System and mist netting.

### An Anabat Bat

Detector System is a handheld device used for recording the echolocation calls of bats. The Bat Detector is used to produce audible output from the ultrasonic (and therefore generally inaudible) sounds which bats generate in order to echolocate. The detector brings the sound into human hearing range and records it onto a remote-activated tape recorder, computer or onto a compact flash card. Once the data have been collected, the recordings can be downloaded onto a computer and the echolocation calls of certain species can be identified by comparing the graphs of calls to known bat



He doesn't look happy! This long-eared *Myotis* is one of the bats captured by stretching a fine black nylon net across their flight path, a technique called 'mist netting'.  
(Photo by Kristi Dubois, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks)

species.

Since this system is highly specialized and extremely complicated, the Butte FO invited Chris Corben (inventor of the Anabat System) and Mike O'Farrell (a well seasoned Anabat user and interpreter of bat calls) to train local BLM employees and other local biologists interested in Anabat technology. Biologists, geologists and natural resource specialists from BLM, Montana Natural Heritage Program, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Montana Tech, Milwaukee Zoo, Plum Creek Timber Company, and several private contractors attended the training which was held in Butte, June 9-13.

After a rocky start with equipment set-up

and software compatibility, the workshop provided an excellent opportunity to get hands-on experience. Participants put in an intense week with class work during the day and bat surveys in the evenings. Students dodged the hail and recorded numerous bat calls for classroom analysis. A few bats were captured using a "mist net" technique to verify the type of bat with its call. After a tiring week, the workshop gave participants the knowledge and courage to start surveying for bats using the Anabat Bat Detector System!

# A Message from the State Director

The more mature I become (yes, that means “older”), the more I have come to understand that history, especially agency history, does, in fact, repeat itself. Who among you hasn’t been personally affected by furlough, outsourcing, reorganization, office shuffling, streamlining, or pot stirring? And the effect on the agency and its work is often equally traumatic.

Sometimes it’s good to step back and take stock. What is it that we do for a living? What is our product? What is clutter? What is important? I recently stumbled across a memorandum from a crusty, old district manager that was addressed to his

boss, the state director. It was dated March 2, 1972; and apparently at that time, like now, there were some concerns with reorganization, position management, and budget shortages. The old veteran obviously was possessed with a fair sense of humor, and his message of 1972 caused me to pause when I read it some 31 years later.

First, let me acknowledge that it (position management) is a serious subject, and I am taking it seriously. I am also well aware that we must be responsible to forces outside our control. However, there are some traps we should avoid, as exemplified by the following, Exhibit A:

## THE PEANUT VENDOR

Once upon a time, there was a peanut vendor who worked hard and sold high-quality peanuts. Business was so good that he had to hire a sales clerk to handle sales so he could run the machine.

The salesman was so good that he brought in some more business, and it was necessary to hire an additional salesman. They kept the vendor so busy roasting peanuts that he hired a mechanic to take care of the machine so the vendor could devote full attention to production.

The vendor soon found that he did not have time to keep the books and handle the paperwork, so he also hired a bookkeeper. The business flourished and expanded.

With this many people working, the vendor found he needed help with personnel matters, so he employed a personnel man.

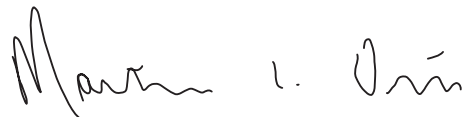
The personnel man studied the organization, drew up an organizational chart and had a management meeting to evaluate their position management.

The chart showed a sales manager and force, maintenance supervisor and crew, accounting division, personnel division, and one peanut vendor. They all read the chart; and when they came to the peanut vendor, someone said, “What in the hell is a guy like that doing in an organization like this?”

So they fired the peanut vendor.

**Moral: It’s a wise organization that knows what its real product is.**

So take heart, don’t get sidetracked by the superfluous, focus on the important things in your private and professional lives, and never underestimate the “power of one.”



Martin C. Ott  
State Director

# The Fish Love it Here

*Jo Christensen, Missoula FO, and Ann Boucher, MSO*

In the fall of 2001, the Missoula Field Office harnessed the power of draft horses for a stream restoration project in Chamberlain Creek near Missoula (Quarterly Steward, Winter 2001). Last summer they used the same horsepower for a similar project at Belmont Creek, another tributary of the Blackfoot River.

Jo Christensen, fisheries biologist, headed up the effort to improve riparian habitat by moving dead trees into the stream using draft horses and a complex elevated block and cable system. In addition to being cheaper, faster, and more maneuverable than heavy equipment (i.e., excavators and track vehicles), a draft horse/elevated cable approach typically does not require "site restoration" afterwards.

The wood altered the stream's flow – slowing it in some places, speeding it in others, and creating pools of varying depths where fish could hide and rest. Although there is no magic formula for how much wood to put where, site monitoring is providing hard evidence that the effort provided just what Mother Nature needed to create a fish-friendly place.



"For this I went to graduate school?" Jo Christensen brushes "Tillie" in preparation for harnessing her for a day's work on the Belmont Creek restoration project. Draft horses rarely break down, throw a rubber track, or have hydraulic fluid leaks. Their needs are relatively simple: a brushing before harnessing and the occasional tummy scratch! (Photo by Amy Sacry)



Horse logger Dave Sturman and his team of Belgians bring a piece of large wood through an historic homestead in the Belmont Creek meadow. The outstanding cultural and historical values in the project meadow precluded use of damaging heavy equipment and machinery. Draft horse teams can slip in and out of the groups of buildings without leaving any trace. (Photo by Jo Christensen)

**Chamberlain Creek:** In the 11 years the project reach had been monitored before the project, no spawning had occurred. Now, two years later, fluvial westslope cutthroat trout are spawning on new gravel trapped by the structures, and federally listed (Threatened) bull trout have been holding in pools created by the wood.

**Belmont Creek:** Before the project, no spawning had occurred in project reach for at least nine years. Now enough gravel has been retained by the installed trees to provide spawning habitat for 58 fluvial westslope cutthroat trout. In some areas where wood was added, enough sediment settled in the streambed to route water onto the historic floodplain for the first time in over a decade. The floodplain, formerly dominated by noxious weeds (oxeye daisy, spotted knapweed) is now predominately comprised of new willow growth, sedges and reeds.

These projects were all "home-grown" affairs, where BLM did its own design/engineering and implementation. As a result, costs of the project were substantially less than what they could have been. The Belmont project was partially funded by a grant from Montana Trout.

This summer the BLM plans to treat another 1,400 feet of Chamberlain Creek and about 900 more feet of Belmont Creek using the same methods

and same draft team.

Although the methods are new to Montana, they are drawing attention. A May 29 article in the Missoulian highlighted the Belmont Creek effort

and its results: (<http://www.missoulian.com/articles/2003/05/29/outdoors/od01.txt>). For more information, please contact Jo Christensen at 406-329-3882.

## Before and After at Chamberlain Creek



Before placement of the trees, the water moved at a single speed, in a single direction. The channel was uniformly shallow, and the bed was dominated by one size-class or particles (cobble). Any organic material falling into the channel would simply float out of the area because there was nothing to retain it.



**September 14, 2001.** Four trees are lowered into the channel and placed in a variety of different directions and at different heights. Diversity in wood position will create equally diverse flow patterns, which in turn, create the most diverse habitat. The simulated wood "jam" is not cabled into place; rather, the extra-long trees are "woven" amongst standing trees in the riparian zone. This weaving approach mimics the appearance and function of naturally fallen trees and allows the trees to rise and fall with changing water levels.



**May 2002.** After just one spring run-off cycle, major habitat changes have occurred. The bed has aggraded more than a foot behind the structure. Several small but deep, complex pools have formed. Below the pools, smaller gravel has fallen out, allowing cutthroat trout to spawn in Chamberlain Creek for the first time in 11 years. A substantial quantity of small woody and organic material has collected on the wood, where it will be retained and utilized by aquatic insects (which are, in turn, food for fishes!)

*(Photos by Jo Christensen)*

# Our Recreation Attractions . . . Check 'em out!!

## Little Rocky Mountains

### Location

40 miles southwest of Malta, Montana.

### Description

This isolated, heavily-timbered volcanic mountain range near the Canadian border rises abruptly from the surrounding plains, providing habitat for a unique mix of mountain and prairie wildlife. Many species found infrequently in eastern Montana are found here.

### Directions

From Malta, drive about 40 miles south on U.S. Highway 191. Watch for a sign pointing west toward Zortman, and follow that road about 7 miles, turning at the Camp Creek Campground turnoff. Or, from Malta, drive about 55 miles south on U.S. Highway 191 to its intersection with State Highway 66. Turn north onto Highway 66, drive about 8 miles, and turn right at the sign pointing east to Landusky. BLM's Montana Gulch Campground is a short distance up this road.

### Visitor Activities

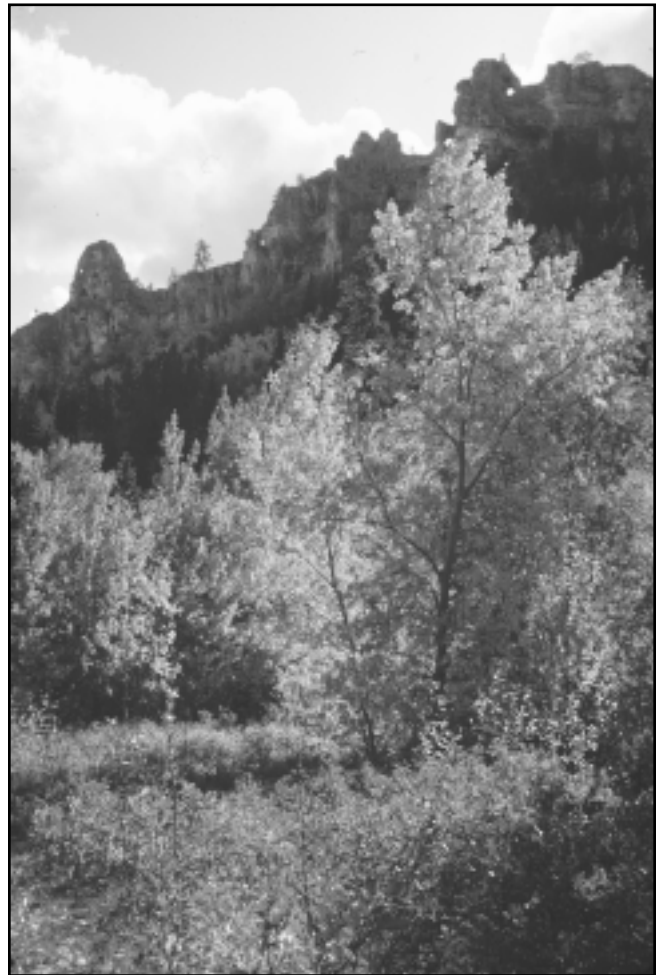
Picnicking, hiking, scenic drives, wildlife viewing, birdwatching, and cross-country skiing.

### Special Features

The highest points in Phillips County, the Little Rocky Mountains are an "island range" surrounded by rolling prairies; a 15-minute drive can take a visitor from the vast expanse of prairie to the shelter of pine trees. The Little Rocky Mountains are rich in gold-mining history and offer diverse mountain recreational experiences. Bighorn sheep can often be seen on the south side of Saddle Butte and Silver Peak, two peaks in the Little Rockies, especially in the winter. The remains of hadrosaurs and other types of dinosaurs have been unearthed in this area.

### Permits, Fees Limitations

None



The tree-covered Little Rockies are typical of the isolated "island ranges" that dot the plains of eastern Montana.

### Accessibility

None

### Camping and Lodging

Camp Creek Campground is about 2 miles northeast of Zortman; Montana Gulch Campground is near Landusky. Both charge nightly fees and can accommodate RVs and tents, but there are no plug-ins. Limited lodging may be found in Zortman; more extensive lodging choices are available in Malta.



**Food and Supplies**

Some food and supplies are available in Zortman; more supplies and services are available in Malta. Potable water is available at Camp Creek from May through September.

**First Aid**

The closest hospital is in Malta.

**Additional Information**

Additional information and maps are available from the BLM office in Malta.

**Contact Information**

BLM - Malta Field Office  
501 South Second Street East  
HC 65 Box 5000  
Malta, MT 59538-0047  
Tel: (406) 654-5100  
Fax: (406) 654-5150  
[www.mt.blm.gov/mafo/](http://www.mt.blm.gov/mafo/)

# Bureau of Land Management

## Off-Highway Vehicle Travel Decision

### Takes Effect

BILLINGS – If you drive a car, truck, all-terrain vehicle, or motorcycle on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in Montana, North Dakota, or South Dakota, you can no longer drive cross-country; you must stay on roads and trails. The Notice of Availability of the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Record of Decision was published June 27 in the Federal Register. The decision restricts motorized wheeled cross-country travel yearlong on approximately 5.8 million acres in the three states. Travel on thousands of miles of open roads and trails will continue.

“The new OHV policy is an important step towards the long-term conservation of our fragile soils, riparian areas, vegetation, and the wildlife species that live in these areas,” said BLM State Director Marty Ott.

The new policy does not apply to snowmobiles nor does it affect the BLM's six “intensive use areas” in Montana: South Hills (near Billings); Terry OHV area; Glasgow OHV area; Fresno OHV area; Radersburg OHV area; and lands addressed in the Elkhorn Mountains Travel Management Plan.

The BLM and the Forest Service addressed OHV use at the request of the Resource Advisory Councils and other public land users and agencies. All four MT/DKs RACs have been extremely involved with the issue since its inception.

The BLM and Forest Service completed a joint environmental impact statement on OHV travel in early 2001. The Forest Service issued its Record of Decision at that time. Due to different processes, BLM needed to resolve protests prior to issuing its decision.

“In areas where BLM and Forest Service are intermingled, OHV users now have consistent rules,” said Ott. He added that the new policy does not change existing road and trail regulations.

“We encourage folks to check locally and obey

the signs that are posted. We'll need everyone's help to ensure the success of this new policy,” Ott said. He suggested users contact the appropriate local BLM office for additional information regarding the new requirement and current travel information.

Within six months, each BLM office will complete a prioritized list of areas for site-specific planning. This planning could include identifying opportunities for trail construction and/or improvement of specific areas where intensive OHV use may be appropriate or it could designate certain roads as open to travel. The BLM will involve the public in this site-specific travel management planning.

For more information on priority setting or site-specific planning, contact your local BLM office.

Additional information is available at [www.mt.blm.gov](http://www.mt.blm.gov).

#### Exceptions to Cross-Country Travel Restrictions

- Access to persons with disabilities will be allowed under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and considered at the local level on a case-by-case basis.
- Cross-country travel to a campsite is permissible within 300 feet of roads and trails. Site selection must be completed by non-motorized means and accessed by the most direct route causing the least damage.
- Cross-country travel is allowed for any military, fire, search and rescue, or law enforcement vehicle used for emergency purposes.
- Cross-country travel for lessees and permittees is limited to the administration of a federal lease or permit. This could include utility and communication companies and livestock permittees.

**Note: Motorized cross-country travel is not allowed for big game retrieval.**



United States Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management  
Montana State Office

JULY 2003

In order to protect fragile soils, riparian areas, vegetation and wildlife, motorized cross-country travel is generally prohibited on BLM lands in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota.

### What's driving cross-country?

While there isn't one easily understood definition that fits all the different conditions, it is generally considered to be cross-country travel when a motorized, wheeled vehicle goes off a road or trail.

Certain roads or trails may be closed or areas opened according to local conditions. Obey signs, carry a BLM travel map, and inquire at the nearest field office to make sure that you have the latest information for where you're going.

In the following photographs, we'll show you what kinds of travel are prohibited and what kinds are permitted under the policy.

### What's NOT OK?



Off-highway vehicles should not drive off roads or trails. If you're "breaking trail" by driving on undisturbed ground and crushing vegetation, STOP.



OHVs should not drive on single-track trails. If your vehicle is wider than the road or trail, STOP.



Pickups shouldn't drive on two-track trails smaller than the width of the vehicle. The vehicle shouldn't be wider than the route.



Don't drive on livestock or game trails. If there are only hoof and paw prints, don't add your tire tracks.



## What's OK?



OHVs may drive within a two-track road or trail. Here the road is wider than the vehicle.



Motorcycles may travel on single-track trails. OHVs and pickups may use two-track roads and trails. Again, if the route is wider than the vehicle, you're okay.



Vehicles may travel on existing routes where plants grow in obvious wheel depressions.



Motorcycles may drive on game or livestock trails **ONLY** if they have had repeated use by motorcycles in the past. All other vehicles need to stay off game and livestock trails.

## Driving Etiquette

Your cooperation is needed to protect critical natural resources. When driving on public lands, please follow these guidelines.

- Stay on existing roads and trails.
- Avoid riparian areas and wetlands. They provide habitat for more than 70 percent of wildlife and aquatic species.
- Avoid steep slopes. While they provide a challenge for drivers, repeated travel on them can cause serious erosion and introduce sediment into streams.
- Ensure that your vehicle's undercarriage and tires are not carrying weed seeds, and wash vehicles before and after traveling roads and trails. The spread of noxious weeds has become a serious threat to wildlife habitat and rangelands.
- Do not approach or chase wildlife. They are stressed by many forms of human use.
- Protect and respect cultural resources, such as old cabins, historic mining sites, fossil areas, and traditional cultural properties. They are an important part of our heritage; leave them for others to enjoy.

## Setting Priorities

For site-specific planning, all areas will be placed in one of the following categories:

**High Priority**—Areas currently having a high level of OHV use that has resulted in resource damage and/or user conflicts and/or the need to address all or most of the factors listed below. Site-specific planning would be initiated within two years of the Record of Decision.

**Moderate Priority**—Areas involving some of the factors listed below as well as areas that could provide OHV opportunities while minimizing user conflicts and resource damage. Planning would be initiated within five years of Record of Decision.

**Low Priority**—Remaining areas that have minimal OHV use (except during hunting seasons), and are somewhat remote. Emergency closures could rectify localized resource problems. No requirements for initiation of site-specific planning.

Factors to be considered in priority setting include:

- opportunities to provide a variety of OHV recreation experiences while minimizing resource damage and conflicts;
- risk of, or current damage to soil, watersheds, vegetation or other natural, cultural, and historic resources;
- potential for spreading noxious weeds;
- damage to riparian/wetland areas;
- harassment of wildlife or degradation of wildlife habitat;
- safety of all users;
- resolution of conflict between interim travel restrictions and established management plans;
- history of new roads and trails being created by users;
- impacts to threatened and endangered and sensitive species;
- special management areas;
- opportunities to join other planning efforts.

## Contacts for Site-Specific Planning And Priority Setting

Field Office	Contact	Field Office	Contact
Billings	Eddie Bateson 406/896-5241 FAX 406/896-5301 Eddie_Bateson@blm.gov	Glasgow	John Fahlgren 406/228-3750 FAX 406/228-4121 John_Fahlgren@blm.gov
Butte	Steve Hartmann or Rick Hotaling 406/533-7600 FAX 406/533-7660 Steven_Hartmann@blm.gov	Miles City	David Squires or David Jaynes 406/233-2810 FAX 406/233-2921 Garth_Squires@blm.gov
Dillon	Rick Waldrup or Tim Bozorth 406/683-2337 FTS 700/391-2237 FAX 406/683-2970 Rick_Waldrup@blm.gov	Missoula	Brian Maiorano or Nancy Anderson 406/329-3914 FAX 406/329-3721 Brian_Maiorano@blm.gov
Havre	Brandi Hecker or Jodi Camrud 406/265-5891 FAX 406-265-3634 bhecker@blm.gov	North Dakota (Dickinson)	Don Ruffedt or Doug Burger 701-227-7700 FAX 701-227-8510 Don_Ruffedt@blm.gov
Lewistown	Chuck Otto 406/538-7461 FAX 406/538-1904 Chuck_Otto@blm.gov	South Dakota (Belle Fourche)	William Monahan or Marian Atkins 605-892-7000 FAX 605-892-7015 bill_monahan@blm.gov
Malta	Rich Adams 406/228-4316 FTS 700-321-4316 FAX 406/228-4121 Rich_Adams@blm.gov		

## On the Right Trail

Do you want something that encourages good land ethics and resource impacts?

We have just the tool for you: the On the Right Trail - Off-highway Vehicle Curriculum for Kids.

This program is not just for OHV riders. Many of its components introduce good land ethics and resource impacts. It is a tool that can be used for more than just OHV. As land managers we want to stress the importance of education and in particular education to the kids. Many times the adults learn from their children.

The kit outlines eight different modules. One advantage to using this program is that each module can stand alone and they vary in the time it takes to do them. You can adapt this program for a 15 minute

presentation or an all-day activity.

The program targets Grades 3-7 and teaches OHV safety, etiquette and ethics. There is an eight minute video which is appropriate for all audiences and would be a good introduction to the OHV issue when addressing service clubs and interest groups.

The curriculum comes with an inclusive kit and guide. Each module includes real "hands on" activities such as role playing, jeopardy, listening to situations on cassette tapes, map reading etc. All the equipment needed to give the presentation is included in the trunk including a tape recorder.

If you are interested in using a trunk or want more information about the program please contact David Squires in the Miles City Field Office at 406-233-2810.

# Preparing for the Worst

Mark Jacobson, Miles City Field Office

It was the kind of training that provides the skills that many agree are good to have, but that everybody hopes they will never have to use.

The Miles City Field Office and Miles City Fire Department recently conducted an exercise in first aid and field medicine for BLM firefighters. The training simulated various injuries that

could be encountered in the field such as burns, fractured limbs, head injuries, allergies and respiratory problems.

Firefighter crews had to treat "patients" with limited first aid supplies or improvise. After treating the patients, firefighters called dispatch and requested a "MEDEVAC" as a part of the scenario which also provided BLM

dispatchers practice in dealing with similar situations.

The training was held at the Miles City Fairgrounds on May 30. BLM firefighters from stations in Miles City, Jordan, Fort Howes, Billings, Bridger, Ekalaka and Camp Crook participated.

This is the second year after a successful first year in 2002.



**PAIN IN THE HEAD** — BLM Law Enforcement Ranger Lori Harbaugh contemplates her role as a casualty as she waits for the next rotation of trainees to arrive at her station.



**HANGIN' OUT** — BLM Maintenance Worker Lynn Pluhar and BLM Fire Operations Helicopter Squad Leader Alicia Tanrath ham it up during a session break at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wilderness First Aid Course held in Miles City on May 30.



*They proceeded on . . .*

## July 4, 1803

News of Louisiana Purchase announced. For \$15 million, Jefferson more than doubles the size of United States: 820 square miles for 3 cents an acre. The next day, Lewis leaves Washington.

## Summer 1803

Lewis oversees construction of big keelboat in Pittsburgh, then takes it down the Ohio River, picking up Clark and some recruits along the way. With Lewis is a Newfoundland dog, Seaman, he has purchased for 20 dollars. Clark brings along York, a slave he has owned since childhood.



(source: [www.PBS.org](http://www.PBS.org))

# Ancient Pursuit/Modern Technology

*Craig Flentie, Lewistown Field Office*

Since man could stand upright and think in a mostly sequential order, he has been collecting and using the shed antlers of deer and elk.



Our earliest Caveman ancestors found purely utilitarian functions for shed antlers and used them as weapons and tools. Our distant cave-dwelling cousins probably didn't make much of a connection between finding an antler and the uniqueness of the larger world around them. Living a life that consisted of short walks from a dark cave to kill something to eat (while trying to avoid being killed and eaten by a bigger, better predator) probably left little emotional need to feel closer to the wild things around you.

While the reasons for horn hunting (intentionally searching for shed deer and elk antlers) and the means of transportation have changed drastically over the millennia (pick ups and all terrain vehicles now seem to be the transportation of choice) modern man still shares that basic urge to pick up sheds with our earliest ancestors.

Whether you hunt, hike, photograph or just enjoy being out of doors, spotting a shed antler lying up against a cluster of silver sage gives most of us a little rush and usually creates much discussion about how old the original owner is and where he may be this coming hunting season. For many, finding a shed horn today temporarily allows us to feel akin to the wild things and places

around us (a much-needed emotional experience that is seldom allowed by the pace of our lives or produced by man-made products).

Modern day horn hunters use the antlers they find in a variety of ways. Some keep them simply for their intrinsic value, others make furniture or novelties of them, while others sell their antlers to buyers (who in turn sell most them into Asian markets for aphrodisiacs). In recent years, the price paid for shed antlers has varied from \$6 to \$7.50 per pound.



Some modern-day horn hunters also bring with them certain technologies, and in some cases, a sense of competition that can challenge public land managers. As the amount of horn hunting increases on our BLM lands, so does the potential for damaging off-road vehicle (OHV) driving. The temptation to cover more country while horn hunting has lead individuals to chain up the truck or all-terrain vehicle and churn across coulees, riparian areas and ridges, leaving fresh two-track trails behind them. Such off-road driving, especially during wet conditions, has the potential to create long-lasting impacts on the soils and vegetation types common in central Montana's Missouri Breaks region.

Careless off-road driving on our public lands can also create long-lasting impressions on other recreationists or commercial users.

With our public lands being used by an ever increasing number of people for a wide variety of activities, we all need to be aware of the social impacts our behavior or activity may be creating. The court of public opinion never adjourns, and since we all have a voice in how public lands are managed, it's to everyone's long-term advantage to be considerate of others.

Inappropriate OHV use is one of many challenges facing public land managers, who are charged with resolving complex issues among our society's greatly differing wants and needs. In part, tomorrow's opportunities on public land may depend upon how we all treat those lands today. With a just combination of common sense, consideration, and innovative management, our BLM lands will continue providing a backyard for this and future generations of Americans.



As the centuries pass, we tend to share fewer and fewer common traits or activities with our ancient cave-dwelling ancestors. However, it seems that at least one distant link with our earliest cousins (the basic urge to stop and pick up a shed antler) is firmly entrenched with modern man.

All horn hunters and other recreationists are reminded that permission is required prior to using private property for any activity and that horn hunting is not legal on national wildlife refuge lands or in national parks.

# Kid's Fishing Day a Big Splash

Story and photos by Mark E. Jacobsen, Miles City FO

If life for an Eastern Montana fish is tough, then things just got tougher.

A crowd of 120 pint-sized anglers honed their fishing skills June 5 at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Kid's Fishing Day hosted by the Miles City Field Office and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) at Spotted Eagle Lake. The event was designed to promote Montana's wildlife and public land legacy.

Numbers were up over the 90 youngsters who registered to participate in last year's event. Parents, friends and siblings accompanied the kids making for a sizeable combined crowd of would-be anglers and fishing fans.

BLM and FWP employees and volunteers from local Boy Scout troops, Walleyes Unlimited and the Custer Rod and Gun Club coached the novice anglers as they cycled through six stations in 15-minute intervals. Subjects ranged from fish identification and knot tying, to water safety and casting techniques. A fishing rod and reel combo was presented to each youngster as they completed the final station at the conclusion of the event.

Christina Warn, 10, found the fish identification the most useful part of the course.

"I can learn if I catch a fish, what kind I caught," said Warn.

Warn hasn't got a fish to her name yet, thanks to the lunker that broke her line at Fort Peck Reservoir. She plans to even the score this summer.

William Reil, 8, a veteran of previous Kid's Fishing Day events found this year's complimentary fishing gear to be an added bonus, in light of a previous mishap.

"We flipped the boat so I lost all my stuff," said Reil.

Between mouthfuls of hotdog, he admired his new fishing rod.

"It's a nice one," said Reil. "I've never had one like it before. It has a user's guide and everything."

The Kid's Fishing Day event has been a combined effort of the BLM and FWP, supported by Miles City merchants and businesses, which have donated the refreshments and fishing gear.

"I think it was run really well," said Sherri Henderson, whose son and daughter were among the participants. "I think this is great, these kids with fishing poles, excited about fishing," said Henderson. "I think they had a lot of fun."

The Hendersons were first-time participants, an occurrence made possible by a postponed baseball game. But the threat of a little rain wasn't enough to dampen their enthusiasm.

"Jase wants to go out and catch them now," said Henderson as her son bounded by with his gear. "Look at that grin."



**TYING IT RIGHT**—BLM Natural Resource Advisor David Squires gives some hands-on knot tying instruction to aspiring anglers.



**WHICH SUCKER IS WHICH?** — FWP Fisheries Field Worker Mike Backes (left) and FWP Field Technician Brad Tribby demonstrate the finer points of fish identification to a crowd of young anglers.





Director Kathleen Clarke presented the Whitetail Pipestone Working Group with a national 4C's Award at a ceremony in Butte on June 18. She recognized the group for its collaborative effort in developing the Whitetail Pipestone Travel Management Plan that is currently being implemented. Group members are (L-R) Sam Samson, Joyce Thompson, Rob Tomich, Benny Finnicum, Norm Tebay, Jim Kuipers, and Doug Abelin. Director Clarke (center) also recognized Steve Hartmann, supervisory land use specialist (kneeling), for his leadership role in the travel plan effort. Not pictured is Hank Goetz, former RAC chairperson and working group member. (photo by Marilyn Krause)



## Mary Ramsey

As you enter the North Dakota Field Office, the first person you see is likely to be Mary Ramsey, whose list of responsibilities includes "receptionist." She probably has the information you need and will deliver it with a good dose of humor.

"Mary does a fantastic job here," said Doug Burger, North Dakota Field Manager. "She's a great first contact for our visitors. Even if they're a little upset when they first call or come in, Mary usually has them laughing by the time they talk to me."

Mary has been at the North Dakota Field office for six years. Her title is office automation assistant, but the "other duties as assigned" have expanded her job description significantly. In addition to numerous administrative tasks, Mary has collateral public affairs and writer/editor responsibilities. One of her current projects is editing the Coteau Environmental Impact Statement, a document that addresses the



potential development of federal coal reserves in Mercer County, North Dakota. In addition, she is the coordinator for the Dakotas Resource Advisory Council and is involved with organizing and conducting Local Perspectives, an

annual orientation course for new Montana/Dakotas employees.

"Mary has a very full plate," said Karen Wolf, administrative officer. "But she has an incredible ability to deal with people and is always upbeat and easy going."

Those who have worked with Mary can verify her knack for getting a job done - and having a good time doing it.

"Mary is very capable and willing to take on new projects," said Burger. "She's the heartbeat of the office." (Ann Boucher, MSO)

# Rixford Receives National Award

*Steve Hartmann and Marilyn Krause, Butte Field Office*

BUTTE – Brad Rixford of the Butte Field Office is the recipient of the prestigious Legends Award by the American Recreation Coalition. As the winner for the entire BLM, Rixford will receive his award in June at the Great Outdoors Week celebration in Washington, D.C.

Each year the American Recreation Coalition recognizes one employee from agencies involved with providing recreation opportunities on public lands and waters. Rixford was selected for his significant contributions to the Butte Field Office recreation program.

In his nearly 20 years with the Butte Field Office, Rixford has built the recreation program into 24 developed recreation sites, including six fee sites. He was instrumental in developing and managing the BLM recreation complex on Holter and Hauser lakes near Helena, considered to be one of the premier recreation areas in the nation. The Holter Lake Campgrounds consist of 160 camp sites; 30 day use units, boat docks with 65 slips, several accessible toilets, swimming areas, fish cleaning stations, and group camping sites. Rixford was responsible for the recent development of Devil's Elbow Campground on Hauser Lake which includes 60 camp sites and



a state-of-the-art day use area complete with volley ball court, swimming area, and group and individual picnic sites.

Brad represents the Butte Field Office in coordination with multiple federal and state agencies, Pennsylvania Power and Light (PP&L), and Montana Power Company (MPC) in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing effort of the

dams along the Upper Missouri River. That effort has resulted in a unique revolving fund established to administer funds generated from matching dollars with PP&L and MPC. The investments will total nearly fifteen million dollars over a five year period.

Another one of Brad's responsibilities is to monitor and maintain the integrity of six wilderness

study areas totaling over 30,000 acres. Two of the most visible areas are the Humbug Spires WSA popular with rock climbers and hikers and the scenic Sleeping Giant WSA, a well recognized landmark north of Helena. And, with 136 undeveloped sites, he depends on a seasonal workforce, approximately 20 volunteers and organizations to provide safe, well maintained facilities. He continues

to work closely with user groups to educate and enhance ethical use and appreciation of natural resource values.

Brad has dedicated the last 19 years as a recreation planner enhancing opportunities and experiences in the Butte Field Office area. He has built a reputation as a public service advocate and an employee with a

strong work ethic. The Butte Field Office is proud of Brad, his contributions to the recreation program, and his innovative spirit. Congratulations Brad!



Top: Brad Rixford tends to the details at Holter Lake Campground. (Photo by Anita Harper)

Bottom: Log Gulch Campground on Holter Lake.

## Retired, but Still Interested?

The Public Lands Foundation, a tax exempt organization, is headquartered in Washington, D.C. Its goals are to:

- Keep lands managed by the BLM in public ownership and open to public use.
- Support multiple use management under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.
- Encourage professionalism by BLM employees.
- Increase the public understanding of and support for the proper management of public lands.

The PLF holds a yearly annual meeting at a designated BLM location. In addition, members receive a directory of all retired BLM employees throughout the U.S. and a quarterly newsletter called the Public Lands Monitor. The PLF is offering new retirees a free one-year membership. Please contact Bill Noble, PLF Montana Representative, at 406-656-0267 to join.



## Calling BLM Retirees

The BLM Retirees Association meets on the first Tuesday of odd-numbered months at Elmer's Pancake and Steak House, 2455 Central Avenue in Billings. Each meeting starts at 11:30 a.m. and features a short program.

If you would like to receive email notifications of these meetings and other office functions, please send your address to Cynthia Embretson at [ceatsage@wtp.net](mailto:ceatsage@wtp.net), or call her at 252-1367.

Please also help us keep our Quarterly Steward mailing list current by contacting Ann Boucher of the External Affairs staff at 406-896-5011 with address changes.

Retired from Montana/Dakotas BLM since April 1, 2003:

Kenneth Hanify – 41 years  
Natural Resource Specialist, Billings Field Office  
Diane Nees — 22 years  
Budget Technician, Butte Field Office  
George Peternel – 37 years  
Outdoor Recreation Planner, MT State Office

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